



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

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# National Intelligence Daily

*Wednesday  
14 March 1979*

DIA and DOS review(s)  
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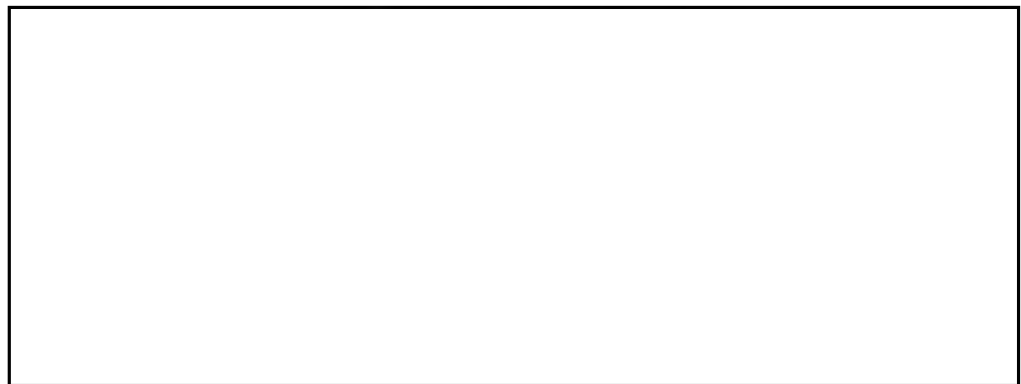
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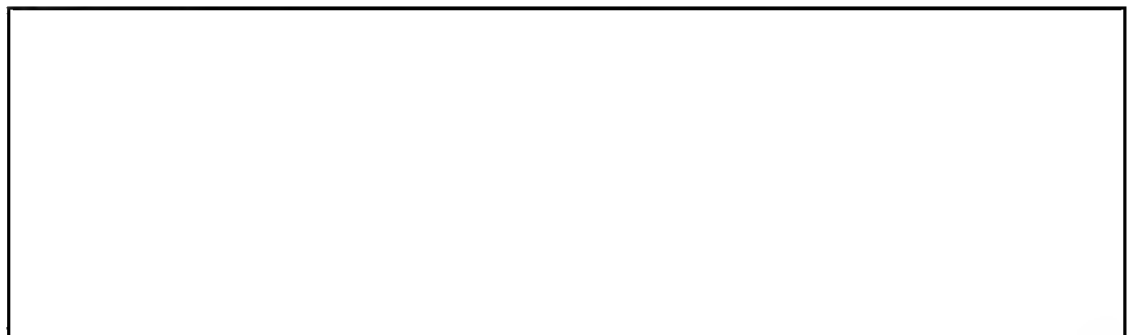
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The Overnight Reports, printed on yellow paper as the final section of the *Daily*, will often contain materials that update the Situation Reports and Briefs and Comments.

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BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

LEBANON: More Threats to the Cease-Fire

*Saudi Arabia apparently intends to begin withdrawing from the Arab Deterrent Force in Beirut starting today. Christian militia leaders reportedly plan to attack Syrian troops in northern Lebanon soon, and the security situation in southern Lebanon has deteriorated recently.*

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[REDACTED]

Lebanese Foreign Minister Butrus on Monday told Ambassador Dean that the Saudi contingent had received orders to begin withdrawing. The Saudis last week had seemed responsive to Lebanese and US requests to delay their departure but, concerned over the Yemeni situation, apparently decided to proceed immediately. [REDACTED]

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There are no indications that Lebanon has made progress in getting Syria to allow the Lebanese Army to replace the Saudis at key flashpoints between Syrian troops and Christian militia units. An attempt by either the Syrians or the militias to occupy the positions could cause major fighting, as could Christian attacks on Syrian units in the mountains north of Beirut. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] told the US defense attache the Christians are planning such attacks this week. [REDACTED]

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In the south, Palestinian forces yesterday fired artillery and rockets at Christian militia sites and at Israeli villages. The attacks started an artillery duel between the fedayeen and Christians lasting for several hours. The Israelis later shelled suspected guerrilla camps [REDACTED]

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Militia leader Major Haddad has fired on Palestinian-held villages daily for over a week, and last Thursday he closed to UN peacekeeping forces all but one road in the Christian-controlled enclaves. Haddad is likely to continue his harassment now that Lebanon has shown its determination to stick to its decision to stop paying the former regular army troops under his command. [REDACTED]

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MOROCCO - WESTERN SAHARA: Military Developments

*King Hassan replaced the commander of Moroccan forces in Western Sahara on Monday, according to press reports from Rabat. In making the announcement, Hassan hinted at a more aggressive policy toward the Polisario guerrillas, which could mean he is giving greater consideration to strikes against Polisario camps in Algeria. On the other hand, the change of field commanders and a royal message to Parliament last week reiterating Morocco's right of hot pursuit may be designed to mollify domestic critics.*

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It is unlikely that the new commander, Colonel Abrouk, will have any greater success fighting the insurgents than his predecessor, Colonel Bennani. The Moroccan forces are in a worse military position now than when Bennani assumed command. They are relying on static defense of fixed positions and have virtually conceded the countryside to the insurgents. As a result, the option of a strike at Polisario camps in Algeria, destroying the source of the problem rather than dealing with the symptoms, may become attractive.

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Hassan, however, needs a political settlement. The war is contributing to the general domestic malaise, and he is unlikely to close the door to negotiations. He presumably realizes that cross-border retaliation would sour already uncertain prospects for negotiations on a political settlement with Algeria and the Polisario Front.

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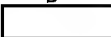


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OVERNIGHT REPORTS

(The items in the Overnight Reports section have not been coordinated within the intelligence community. They are prepared overnight by the Office of Current Operations with analyst comment where possible from the production offices of NFAC.)

Grenada

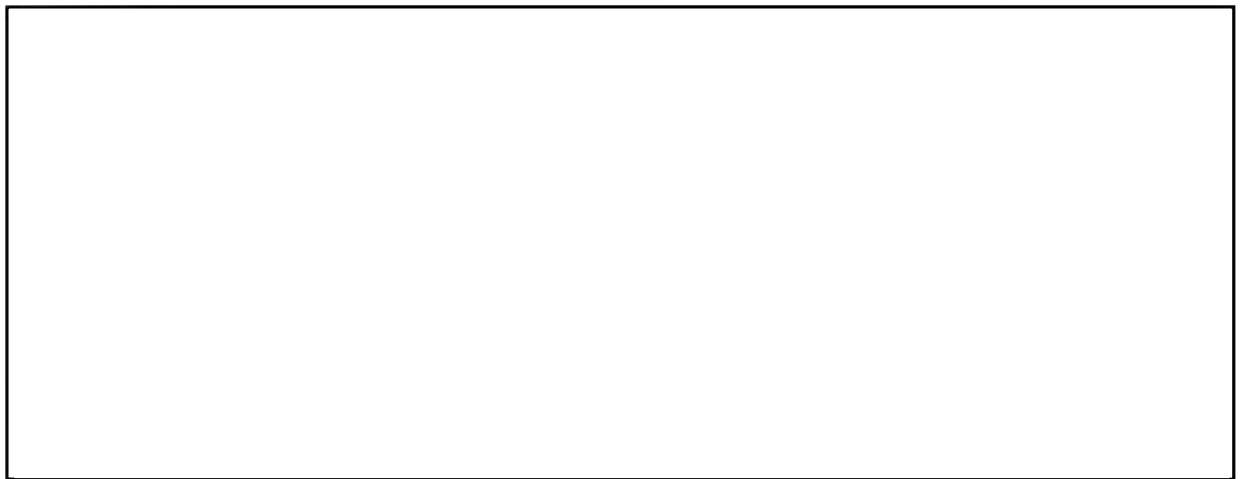
Guyana's Prime Minister Burnham told the US Embassy in Georgetown last night that Foreign Ministers of the Caribbean Common Market states will meet today in Bridgetown, Barbados, to discuss the situation on Grenada 

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 Jamaica apparently will attend. Burnham did not appear downcast in asserting that the New Jewel Movement now controls Grenada; he stressed to the Embassy his hope that there be no outside interference on the island pending the review of the situation by the neighboring states. 

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Middle East

According to late press reports, Red Cross officials have announced the exchange at Geneva airport today of an Israeli soldier for approximately 80 Palestinians. The exchange is described as the first between Israel and the Palestinians. The Israeli soldier--seized in south Lebanon last April--was flown in from Damascus, and the Palestinians reportedly arrived on an Israeli civil aircraft. [REDACTED]

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Kampuchea

The US Embassy in Beijing reports that Prince Sihanouk early this month told French Ambassador to China Arnaud that he would not work with a new Pol Pot regime and disagrees with China's view that the Pol Pot forces are essential to a solution of the Kampuchean problem. Sihanouk said he prefers a neutral Kampuchea--one friendly to Beijing while maintaining good relations with Vietnam and the USSR--and no early withdrawal of Vietnamese forces, since that allegedly would lead to a comeback by Pol Pot. The Embassy comments that Sihanouk remains very much his own man; he evidently is searching for a united front strategy that will not give a leading role to Pol Pot's supporters and will not be a Chinese creation. [REDACTED]

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Thailand-USSR

The US Embassy in Bangkok reported yesterday that a considerable body of influential Thai opinion thinks Prime Minister Kriangsak should postpone his visit to the USSR, which is scheduled to commence a week from today. Several ranking members of the government have told US Ambassador Abramowitz that Thailand will gain nothing from a visit to the state which has underwritten Hanoi's adventurism. The Embassy notes, however, that Kriangsak continues to say, publicly and privately, that he is going; he apparently feels he has committed himself and must go in order to preserve a posture of balance in Thailand's relations with the great powers. [REDACTED]

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Brazil

On the eve of tomorrow's inauguration of President-elect Figueiredo, striking auto workers have closed down several plants in Sao Paulo, and students in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo are said to be planning protest demonstrations. The workers are demanding pay hikes 34 percent above what the government is willing to grant; the students presumably seek to draw attention to the military's continued political dominance. None of the actual or planned activity has anti-US overtones, and no protests are planned for Brasilia. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: Neither situation is likely to become violent. The government has taken a conciliatory approach to similar strikes in recent months and is likely to do so again. In the case of the students, the regime will probably also take a "hands-off" approach, intervening only in the event of serious disorder. [REDACTED]

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France

A special session of Parliament on France's burgeoning unemployment problems opens today. President Giscard formally called the session Monday in response to the requisite number of deputies seeking debate on the government's economic program. According to the US Embassy in Paris, he is playing "hardball" with Gaullist leader Chirac--a likely rival in the presidential election in 1981. In his statement, Giscard claimed that Gaullist leaders had provoked the special session without consulting the party's elected representatives and were being inconsistent with President de Gaulle's action in similar circumstances in 1960. Giscard, the Embassy notes, thus has obliquely accused Chirac of running his party like a dictator and of betraying the Gaullist concept of presidentialism. [REDACTED]

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Saudi Arabia - Turkey

The West German Foreign Office has informed the US Embassy in Bonn that Saudi Arabia intends to provide Turkey with \$250 million in credits to be divided between project assistance and funds for the purchase of spare parts and raw materials. The Embassy was unable to ascertain a further breakdown of these credits or the time frame for disbursement; the assistance is to be provided on a strictly bilateral basis and will not be coordinated with any Western aid initiative under OECD auspices. The West German Embassy in Jidda reports that contrary to press reports in Ankara, the Saudis and Libyans are not contemplating the formation of a joint consortium to aid Turkey. [REDACTED]

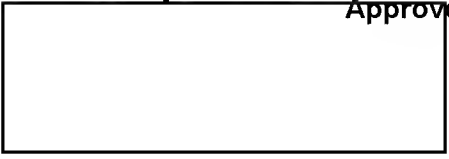
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